

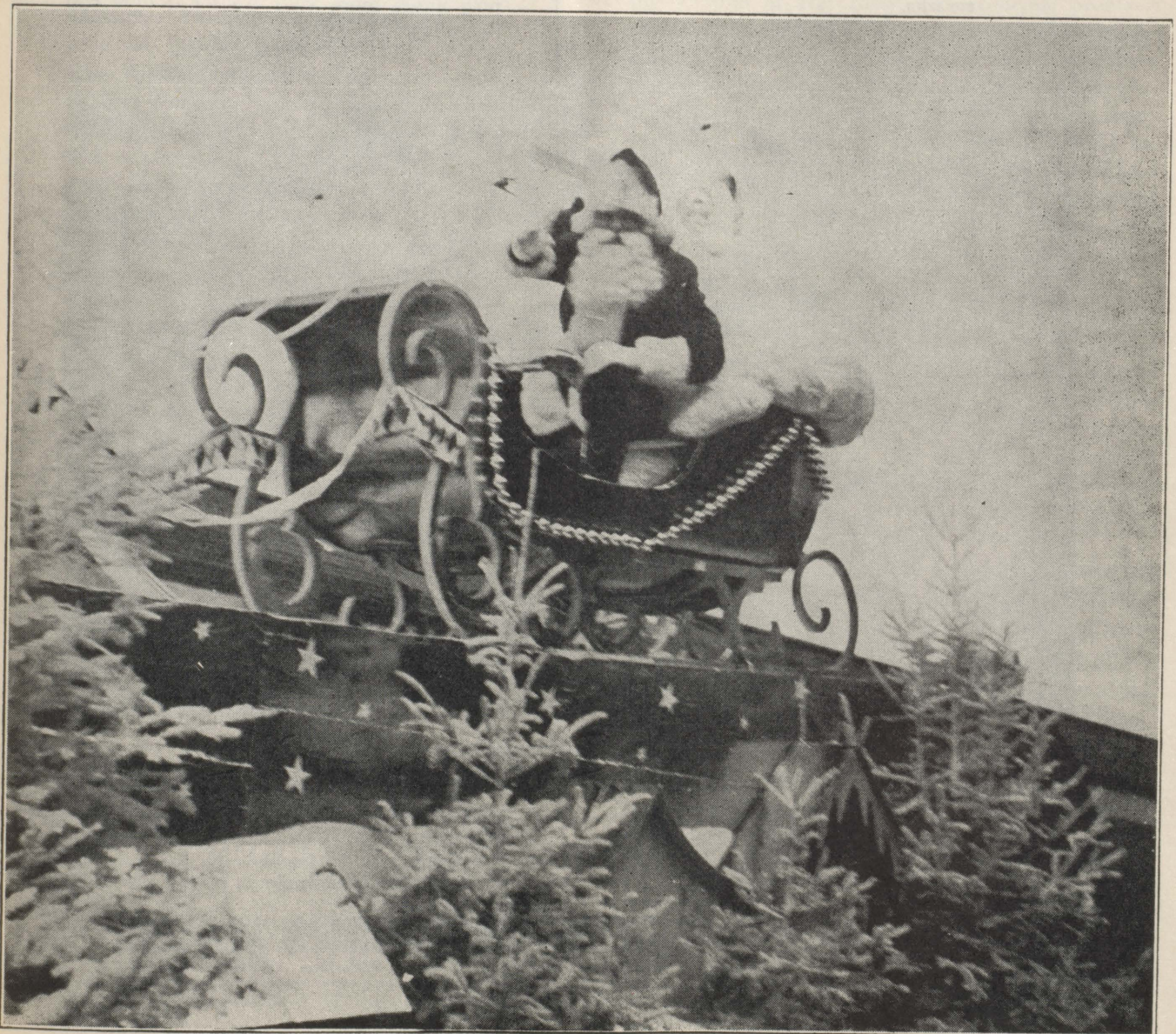


THE Macdonald Farm Journal

VOLUME 15 No. 4

DECEMBER 1954

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A Christmas Tradition

To the many old and wonderful traditions all of us share at Christmas, we at Macdonald College add another just as enjoyable and satisfying in its own way. This year as usual, the College is host for the annual Christmas Short Course from December 27 to December 31.

Those of us responsible for the planning, and you who come to share with us, have many things in common. Perhaps one of the most important is the conviction that in rural community life there are values worth maintaining and developing. Values cannot be held separately from people and the ways they act and feel towards one another. The great Christmas Message of peace on earth to men of good will requires more effort than its mere affirmation. What is required is the deepest feeling, vision, wisdom and understanding that we are capable of. The Message through the ages should find its practical application in our day-to-day relationships with each other. To be effective people, we need to express the spirit of Christmas in everyday affairs.

Now we admit this idea is easily stated and there is nothing new in its saying. Yet when applied to the problem of training leaders, it takes on a different meaning. Leaders in community affairs need to develop a sympathetic understanding of the hopes, aspirations, and needs felt by other people. A leader may feel he knows how to put into practice all the best methods for making meetings effective. Yet he may fail miserably at his job.

Democratic leadership requires of us the ability to think with and develop with the group as a whole. The leader who can't really be bothered with the views or feelings of others offers very little. The 'lack of interest' excuse given for the failure of many of our voluntary organizations, is often a form of rebellion by the members against the attitude of the leaders. The failure of an organization to hold the interest of its members may of course be due to being bored with dull, lifeless poorly organized programs. An organization gets

into a bad situation when both the attitude of the leader is poor and the program is not meeting a need.

The people who come to our Christmas Short Course are the kind who are seriously interested in the welfare of their communities. They are the men and women who are already active in community organizations and have been confronted with some of their problems. The group always includes a fair proportion of young people who are ready and able to assume greater responsibilities.

The part played by community organizations in the solution of real social and economic problems that farm people face, is the main emphasis in the course. Sessions are organized each day to give those attending practice in conducting meetings, organizing discussion, and the use of films, speakers, study materials in their programmes. Relaxation is an important part of living, and the group learns how to relax and have fun together through games and dances, and group singing. Evening programmes are planned completely by the short course members. This feature helps everyone learn how to do a better job in their organizations by practising what they learn during the day.

The group spirit that quickly develops is part of the total learning situation. We begin to see that each one of us has something to contribute to the group, each in his own way. In a free atmosphere of give and take, and acceptance of one another, we learn to appreciate the worth of each person as an individual.

The art of leadership, in its true sense, is after all the art of living constructively with our fellow man. Our short course experience is really nothing more than a small segment of life itself.

Peace on Earth to men of good will is part of the great Christmas Message. Our duty then is clear. We are all called upon to show forth the Spirit of God in our every-day relationships with others.

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Chairman of the Board, W. H. Brittain; Editor, A. B. Walsh; Associate Editor, H. R. C. Avison;
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For advertising rates and all correspondence concerning the advertising section write to the Advertising Representative, E. Gross, 202 Cote St. Antoine Road, Westmount, telephone GLEview 2815.

Subscription rate \$1.00 for 3 years. Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

WOOD

for the

FUTURE

A group of Diploma students and Macdonald College staff members discover the real meaning of proper woodlot management at Harrington Forest Farm.

AS OUR CARS sped past the pleasant rolling farm country around Harrington, and we climbed the rugged, wooded hills beyond, we were totally unprepared for our first view of Canadian International Paper Company's Forest Farm. There on a rise was a handsome wooden building with the quiet air of a pleasant holiday lodge. How wrong we were! This was no place for a rest. The Lodges houses offices, a dining room, meeting rooms and overnight accommodation for visiting groups. People come here from near and far to see how good woodlot management pays.

We had barely time to get out and stretch our legs, when we were met by Hans Anspach a former Hollander and the Forest Farm's energetic manager. Back into the cars and we were off to parts unknown in the 17,000 acres of woodland which is the 'Farm'. First item on our agenda was to see cutting operations.

Cutting Operations

The bush road we followed twisted and turned as it climbed steadily upward. At our first stop we were to see felling, bucking, piling, and loading.



Winch-equipped tractor skidding a log.



Four-men teams of experienced operators carry out cutting operations at Harrington. They are paid on a piece-work basis under contract to the company. The team supplies their own chain saws and horses for skidding. These four-men teams can put up about 6 cords of pulpwood a day, we were told.

One man fells and limbs the trees. He can keep one man and his team of horses going steadily on skidding, and two men, with another chain saw, busy cutting and piling the pulpwood.

Horses or Tractors for Skidding?

While we were there watching the cutting crew at work a gasoline powered half-track was demonstrated for us on skidding operations. With its power take-off winch, we were told it cost close to \$5,000 new. Compare this with the \$350.00 to \$400.00 cash outlay for a good team of bush horses and harness.

Our guide pointed out that they have kept cost figures on both methods. It costs about \$1.59 per hour to operate a team of horses, \$1.11 for a single horse and \$2.18 per hour for the half-track on skidding operations. It was



Two men are kept busy cutting and piling.

pointed out however, that the tractor has an advantage on long hauls. On short hauls, they are convinced at Harrington that a good bush team is the practical answer. It was apparent, even to our untrained eyes, that the tractor on skidding operations also did a lot of damage to young trees.

Selecting Trees for Cutting

Staff members at the Forest Farm work ahead of the cutting crews, marking trees to be cut with bright yellow or red paint. Hand pressure guns are used to speed up the operation. To check on "cut-happy" crews, trees are marked below the cut level as well as on the trunk.

One problem in the 3,000 acres now being tree-farmed at the Forest Farm, and a common problem in the whole area, is the high percentage of cull trees — crooked and over-mature maple and yellow birch especially. First trees selected for cutting are the unsound, diseased, or dying tree. Poor trees of all species, mature, or not, are cut out. Crooked trees, double trees, or undesirable species are removed. Mature trees that are sound and straight are also selected for cutting. These, of course, are not sent to the pulp mill but are set aside to be sold as veneer or saw-logs.

Each tree is selected individually by the woodlot operator. He must check the tree for soundness and estimate its age. He looks up to check for "die-back" or if the branches shade the younger trees too much. Experience is the best teacher, but the Harrington people claim anyone can learn to do a good job in a short time when he knows what to look for.

Loading Pulpwood

Hardwood "pulp" is difficult to handle because of its weight. Two types of mechanized loaders are used at the Forest Farm to make the job easier and speed up operations. One type is an overhead endless belt loader and the other a vertical lift loader. Both are mounted on medium-sized farm tractors.

The endless belt on the overhead loader is equipped with prongs to carry the 4 foot pulpwood lengths. The



The vertical lift loader means less handling.

tractor is backed into the cordwood piles and "pulp" is carried upward and forward to the truck platform. It is a very fast machine where there is a lot of pulpwood to move, but two men must be on hand to roll the wood into position.

Most loading crews seem to prefer the vertical lift loader. As it is easily manoeuvred by the tractor operator, little assistance is needed on the ground. It is not quite as fast as the other type of loader but on small operations is likely more economical. Farmers in the area have found manure loaders satisfactory for loading if they are careful not to try to lift too much at a time. The vertical loader used at Harrington is converted from a Wagner gravel-loader. It can lift more at a time because of its heavier construction.

A Crop Rotation for Trees

The 3,000 acres presently under improvement management at Harrington Forest Farm will be organized on a 12-year rotational basis after the over-mature trees have been removed. This means that a crop will be cut once every 12 years on blocks of about 250 acres each.

This is so-called sustained yield forestry. The program calls for harvesting the poorest trees and mature trees, while leaving the best to grow. New growth is speeded up on the vigorous trees left after each cutting. In addition the quality of wood left growing is improved.

Only the volume of wood that grows each year will be harvested after the rotation comes into operation. As each block will be harvested every 12 years, this means a 12 years' growth is cut at one time. It is estimated that the young, more vigorous trees will produce at least 50 cubic feet of wood per acre each year. Those of you who like to figure things out will see that this is 600 cubic feet of wood in 12 years. There are 128 cubic feet in a cord, so you might expect a yield of around 5 cords per acre every time it is cut in the rotation. At the present time hardwood pulp is worth \$15.00 per cord.

In common with all farm woodlot owners in the area,



The overhead loader at work.

the production of top quality (and high priced) veneer and timber trees is the aim at the Forest Farm. There is a good market for all kinds of lower quality trees, and tops of saw-logs at the Hawkesbury pulp mill. This makes it profitable for the same 1,500 farmers, presently shipping pulpwood to Hawkesbury, to continuously cull their woodlots and leave their best trees to grow into quality saw logs.

A Good Market

Mr. Manny Wilson, Resident Manager of C.I.P.C.'s District Buying Office at Grenville, told our group that he feels sure his company's Hawkesbury pulpmill's annual requirement can be met from tree tops and cull trees. Four years ago the Hawkesbury mill was converted to make sulphite pulp from hardwood. Now the plant can use all kinds of trees, softwoods or hardwoods, that grow in the area.

Forestry experts, he pointed out, feared the establishment of a good market outlet would lead to clear cutting and other poor woodlot practices. There was a real danger that farmers would be left without any valuable wood for years to come, while the company would suffer a shortage of wood in a few years time.

Mr. Wilson explained to us why the Harrington Forest Farm was established. It was set up to be a demonstration woodlot on a paying basis and a place where some forest research, studies of farm forestry methods and tests of new equipment could be carried out. Figures are also kept of costs and returns on all operations. Results are passed on directly to farmers at field days at the 'Farm' and by Doug. Morrison the company's extension forester.

C.I.P.C.'s buying policy, Mr. Wilson emphasized is also designed to encourage sustained yield forestry. They buy wood for their mill only from those woodland operators that show they are not exploiting their trees for a quick profit.

Other Points of Interest

During our tour, we saw a great many other things of general interest. As we do not have space to discuss them, it will be necessary to mention them only briefly.

The 'splitting-gun', which is a 60 pound steel block hollowed out in part and filled with a charge of blasting powder, does a mighty effective job splitting up large tree trunks into pulpwood size.

In the experimental nursery we saw hybrid poplars being produced that will grow to pulpwood size in 15 to 17 years. Experimental field plantings 12 feet apart are making very promising growth. However the soil must be quite fertile with good moisture holding capacity. These hybrids promise well for reforestation of abandoned farms.

Other mechanized equipment, not yet mentioned, included a side-hill tree planter; a 300 gallon capacity portable sprayer to control insects and fight small fires; and a handy one-man machine for cutting brush and



All set to use the splitting gun.

thinning out small trees. Fire fighting equipment to protect the buildings consists of a good sized pond and a permanently installed pump with lengths of fire hose kept handy.

Permanent staff at the Harrington Forest Farm consists of 7 men. This number is increased to 30 by piece-workers hired for cutting, spring tree-planting and other operations.

Twenty-three 2-year Diploma students, the first to take the new Farm Forestry Course at Macdonald College, took the field trip. They were accompanied by five college staff-members, Mr. L. Holt of the Pulp and Paper Institute who presently teaches the course, and several other interested observers.

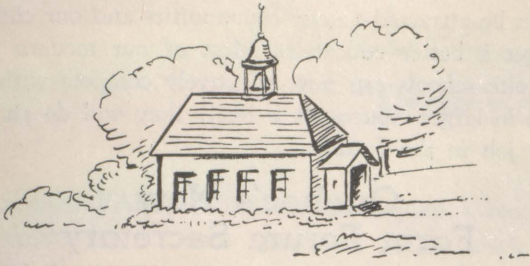
Match Political with Economic Democracy, Coady Urges Co-Ops

Undergird political democracy with economic democracy — and soon — lest business oligarchy strangle those freedoms won in the past 200 years.

That's the job Msgr. M. M. Coady cut out for 350 men and women, representing 12 million co-op members, as they left the Cooperative League of the U.S.A.'s 3-day biennial congress in Chicago.

"Only consumer cooperation," he said, "lays the economic basis for a complete, democratic, social philosophy. It is the final step that puts the common people of the world in the economic saddle and makes them masters of their own destiny." Coady is director emeritus of St. Francis Xavier University's extension department, Antigonish, N.S.

"In Canada we think of the co-operative idea as a tool to be used by the people in communities to develop themselves and to increase their knowledge of the true nature of the world in which they live," stated R. S. Staples, president of the Co-operative Union of Canada, earlier in addressing a Congress luncheon meeting.



Just as mechanization has effected great changes in our farming methods, Composite High Schools in rural areas affect the education of our young people.

THE small one-roomed school house located in the farm neighbourhood is almost a thing of the past in most parts of English-speaking Quebec. Certainly its inevitable passing from the scene is regrettable in many ways. But declining farm population, the pressure created when families move away and there are fewer children, makes the move to Central School Boards and Composite High Schools a necessity.

It is true certain areas will find it necessary to continue with one-room schools where the English-speaking community is small or scattered. But the trend in the rest of the province is definitely towards large school districts and central schools teaching all grades.

Once such a trend as this is started there is no turning back. The fact is that it is already a well-established pattern in Quebec and is continuing. We have no alternative but to accept the change and adapt ourselves to it.

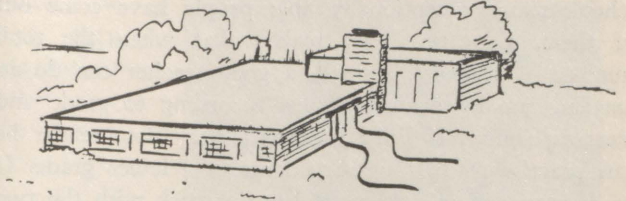
The Cost of Education

All of you know that the new educational system costs money. First of all the new buildings and additions to old ones cost a great deal, especially when modern equipment and special rooms for science laboratories, shopwork, and commercial subjects are provided for.

Then there is the problem of fast, yet safe, transportation. This problem goes deeper than merely providing a few buses. Bus routes must be short enough, for example, so that children a long way from school leave and return at reasonable hours — especially the very young ones. Roads have to be improved so that they can carry heavy wheeled traffic spring, winter and fall. Roads must be wide enough and straight enough to be safe for bus travel.

Teachers' salaries, so often, sad to say, a bone of contention, are naturally considerably higher under this new system. New and well-equipped schools, large enough so that teachers have more chance to teach the subjects or grades they are best-suited for, help attract people into the teaching profession who desire to make it their

Our Rural Schools



career. These well-trained teachers should not and cannot be expected to accept low salary scales. Rural Central School Boards have to compete with the terrific demand for teachers in mushrooming urban and suburban areas. Your Board serves your best interest by providing good schools and paying good salaries. There is no reason why rural children should be discriminated against.

However, we have to be realistic about these costs. The Provincial government helps equalize the higher per pupil costs of Composite High Schools by a system of grants. But despite these grants there are considerably higher educational taxes to pay unless you have new industries in your area which will help absorb some of them.

The Teachers

As we have stated, more and more high calibre teachers, well-trained and competent, are being attracted into the profession. Our job in rural communities is to attract the best of them to our schools, and hold them if possible. We need, also, to encourage those good ones we now have. More money, good schools, and attractive surroundings all certainly help, but they are not necessarily the most important.

Teachers, like all the rest of us, need to feel that they count in the life of the community. This isn't something we do during Education Week and forget the rest of the year. Through Farm Forums and Women's Institutes, Home and School and personal contacts we can make the teachers of our schools feel at home among us.

They can be invited out to special parties to meet the parents and other people in the neighbourhood. Criticizing the schools and the teachers is never any solution. We should befriend our teachers, make them welcome to join in our activities, and uphold them in front of our children. We should speak on their behalf to those who think modern education and teachers aren't what they were when they went to school.

Teachers need to feel proud that they teach in your community. If you are really interested in better education you should get to know them personally. It will pay dividends in better teachers and a better community.

Some Teaching Problems

Whatever the shortcomings of the one-roomed rural school, many exceptionally able people have come out of them. Educators now realize that when the total number of students is small, a good teacher can do an amazing job by flexible groups according to grade and learning ability. If Billy Jones is a very slow reader he can practise reading with students in a lower grade. If he is very fast in arithmetic he can work with the two or three pupils in a higher grade.

In our Composite High School set up this is not so easy. Teachers usually have only one grade to teach with slow and fast learners mixed together. Teaching, as a result, may be geared down to the lowest or geared too high and miss the majority. Teachers try to work out a system but crowded classrooms are preventing them from doing the job they could do better.

Because of our improper financing of schools, and perhaps putting too much emphasis on what is needed to teach the high school grades properly, we may destroy what we hope to accomplish.

All of us should think about this problem and become informed, discuss it and try to do something about it. A situation where our younger less-experienced teachers often have to face a large group of 30 to 40 active primary graders bodes ill for the future schooling of our children. No matter what the cost we should insist on smaller classes, especially for grades 1 to 5. It would seem the maximum number should be 20 or 25 at the most. It would be even better if the number could be smaller. It could then be possible for a skillful teacher to keep all the children working and learning at their own individual pace. It is not possible, under conditions now prevailing in most of our larger schools, for a teacher to provide an equal educational opportunity for all kinds of children varying in background, ability and achievement. Fortunately we can correct this in our schools easier than over-crowded city schools can. If we had small classes in lower grades teachers would be attracted to come and stay. Our children would reap the benefit.

The one-room school teacher has to keep several grades going at once but one secret of success is the small numbers. Those who needed least help can be pushed on to learn for themselves. Those with less ability are helped to attain as high a degree of self-education as possible. The result is students who work to the best of their ability. We can't afford to lose this characteristic from our larger central schools.

While our educational system is undergoing rapid change, we need have no fear for the future. True, it will cost us more money for schools, transportation, and teachers but it will be worthwhile. Better qualified teach-

ers can be attracted to our communities and our children will get a better education. Most of our modern rural composite schools can now effectively compete with any found in larger centres. It is likely they will do an even better job in the future.

Quebec's New Farm Forum Secretary



R. J. (Bob) McDonnell has been appointed secretary-treasurer of Quebec Farm Forum Association. His new duties started on November 1st. Bob, who comes from Alexandria in Glengarry County, Ontario, brings with him varied and valuable experience in farming, farm journalism, and farm organizational work.

Bob, a young, energetic man of 30, has operated his own farm and has been active in Farm Forums and Junior Farmers. He has served on the board of directors of a Co-operative, an Agricultural Fair, the Cheese Producers Association, the Federation of Agriculture, and the Maxville Highland Games.

He was a contributor to the Family Herald and Weekly Star and worked for his local Glengarry News before he joined the staff of the Ottawa Farm Journal in 1952. On this paper he was responsible for the Dairy Page, along with reporting duties.

By the time you read this, many of you will have already met your new secretary. The *Journal* welcomes him and his wife to Macdonald College and, on your behalf, to the larger community of friends which is Quebec Farm Forum Association.

Bob replaces Keith Russell as Quebec Farm Forum Secretary. As most of you know, Keith is now assistant farm-commentator for the C.B.C. Farm Broadcast Department serving Quebec and Ontario region.

C.F.A. Presents Brief on Textile Tariffs

Any move by the Canadian government to increase tariffs against the entry into Canada of British textiles would further seriously impair the already weakened ability of the United Kingdom to make purchases of Canadian farm products. Not only would the result be a further lessening of British purchases from Canada, but would also bring about an increase in the cost of Canadian textiles to Canadian consumers, and would therefore offer only a very temporary relief to the textile industry.

Quebec Farm Forums

"Provincial Workshop"

QUEBEC FARM FORUMS have quite a record for finding new approaches to Farm problems. In the past, for example, they initiated the use of small groups which makes sure everyone has an opportunity to participate in decisions. Now comes another new approach. The Provincial Workshop, recently organized by the Quebec Farm Forum Council, was designed to find ways to make our Farm Forum movement more effective.

Perhaps more useful than the actual decisions reached by the 23 people from 6 counties who participated in the two-day event, was the way in which the workshop was conducted. The group itself tackled the problems one by one in a logical fashion. The idea of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for people to pool their knowledge. Out of this process, the members discovered the answers to the problems for themselves.

To start off with, it was felt necessary to discover what the real Farm Forum problems were. By spending 10 minutes in very small groups of 3 each, it wasn't hard to prepare a list quickly. Problems listed were referred to later on in the program.

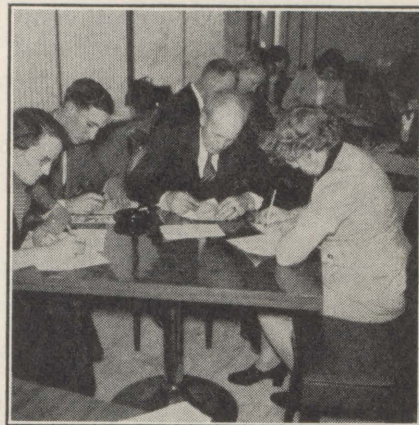
What is Farm Forum?

How Does it Work?

On the subject of Farm Forum, what it is and how it works, a good device was used. Rather than a straight lecture, Walter Hodgman, Provincial President, who led the discussion, set up four questions to be answered by each person. The questions were (1) What is National Farm Radio Forum? (2) Who makes up the National Board? (3) What is the line of authority from Quebec Farm Forums to the National Board? (4) What is a local Farm Forum?

While everyone's answers were partly right, almost all replies contained some wrong information. You will see that the stage was now set for someone to provide the correct facts. Each person was ready to listen and discover where he went wrong. Mr. Hodgman then summarized their replies and provided the correct answers.

- (1) Farm Radio Forum is an unique educational program among Canadian farm people. It combines several techniques — use of radio, printed study material, small group discussion, and reporting back and forth. The purpose is to provide a two way channel for information and ideas to reach farm people and the opinions of farm people to come to the attention of the public.
- (2) The National Board, which is responsible for Farm Forum policy making, consists of 2 representatives from each sponsoring organization — the Canadian Association for Adult Education; the Canadian



Workshop people busy preparing news items.

Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. At least one representative is also named by each provincial Farm Forum Council or Committee.

- (3) The line of authority from Quebec Farm Forums is as follows: Each local forum elects by ballot a representative to their District Farm Forum Council. The District Council elects by ballot a chairman who represents the District on the Quebec Farm Forum Council. The Quebec Council then elects by ballot their representative to the Board of National Farm Radio Forum.
- (4) A local Farm Forum is most simply described as a group of neighbours who meet, usually in a farm home, on Monday evenings to use the services of National Farm Radio Forum.

The Workshop continued with an open discussion period. It was pointed out that the Board members of National Farm Radio Forum had a different job to do from that of the C.F.A. The farm organization policies deal with specific kinds of action on problems that affect farm people. Farm Forum is concerned with how to provide background information and all points of view on a subject, so that farm people can decide what action should be taken. Farm Forum is the national educational organization — the C.F.A. the action organization. It was clarified too that National Board members decide on Farm Forum policy. Provincial secretaries may be consulted on matters of fact or procedure, but only the Board member is responsible for the decisions made.

Publicity

Each person at the workshop was asked to write a news item announcing the workshop and another report on the first morning's session. Discussion of some of the samples pointed out that need to use the "5 W's" —

Who? What? Where? Why? and When? in your report of a Forum meeting for the newspaper or radio. Bob McDonell, Quebec Farm Forum secretary and formerly with a farm paper, commented on the news item. He brought out the need for emphasizing different "W's" according to the paper expected to use the report — such as local weeklies, regional farm paper, or a city daily. Newspaper style demands that main points are put in the first part and expanded in short but complete paragraphs that follow. This is necessary if you are to have a report that gives all the necessary information even if the editor is forced to cut down your report to make space.

Recreation

Opportunity was given at the Workshop to consider ways of using recreational activities as part of Farm Forum.

The group talked about recreational problems at local Forum meetings and at larger community meetings. At various times in the Workshops, participants practised singing games without using a piano; quiet games to suit different moods; lively games, and how to lead group singing. The problem of how to plan a recreational program to suit young and old was dealt with. It was suggested that local groups should provide variety to give everyone a chance to join in some recreational activity.

How To Prepare The Findings

Under the direction of Thelma (Mrs. Douglas) Pitman, secretary of Suffield-Belvedere Farm Forum in Sherbrooke County, the group worked out methods for summarizing group opinions for the Farm Forum Findings.

Five small groups discussed a question from Farm Forum Guide then reported their findings. The meeting then worked out ways for summarizing these 5 small-group reports into one single Farm Forum report.

It was decided that it was very important to use the ideas and wording brought out by the groups. Be brief and report any real differences of opinion expressed. It was pointed out that the final summary is a responsibility of the whole group after the small groups discuss the

questions and report. This also provides an opportunity for everyone in the large group to know what was discussed in each of the sub-groups.

This part of the Workshop led to a general discussion which pointed up the necessity for good questions for discussion and the need for pre-testing groups. Most people, it was felt, needed to find the local slant on general national questions before discussion would mean very much.

District Farm Forum Councils came into the picture at this point. The Workshop group felt that too often they were content only with organizing spring and fall Rallies. It was suggested that the Councils should provide the means for more facts to be obtained on problems coming up in Farm Forum discussion. Speakers, films, books, tours, and demonstrations all could be used to stimulate more consideration of local angles of the topic. Special meetings could be organized not only to obtain information but to co-ordinate suggestions for action coming from the local groups.

Better Planned Programs

The question of how to create interest in Farm Forum could likely be solved if Forum meetings were better planned. Local groups should try to work in interests of others in the neighbourhood who presently don't attend. Most people will not continue to attend poorly run meetings that drag on to late hours. Baby-sitting problems might also be helped if people with more free time took direct responsibilities for organizing the meetings and provision was made for meetings to end at a reasonable hour.

Other meetings such as Rallies and special meetings should be planned in detail ahead of time. Responsibilities

Picture 1: Mrs. Alex Cameron, secretary, East Clifton Farm Forum, Mrs. Audrey Hodgins, Clarendon No. 5 Farm Forum, and Ernest McOuat, chairman, Argenteuil Farm Forum Association. Picture 2: Mrs. Paul Mahannah, secretary, East Farnham Farm Forum, Marianne Bossen, Adult Education Service, Mrs. Eddie Kettle, Jerusalem-Bethany Farm Forum, Stanley Callaghan, Vinton Farm Forum and Mrs. Gilbert Telford, past president, Quebec Farm Forum. Picture 3: Douglas Pitman, Sherbrooke County, Mrs. Mahannah, Brome County, Mrs. Doug Pitman, secretary Suffield-Belvedere Farm Forum and Walter Hodgman, Compton County, summarize reports at the Workshop.



should be shared by a large number of people and be timed to start and end on schedule. It is important to balance the items on the program between study and relaxation. Plans need to be made in case a speaker is late or some other emergency arises.

Evaluation

At the end of each half day during the Workshop, opportunity was provided for people to say what they thought about the way the program was going. They filled in sheets stating what they liked best, what they liked least, and suggestions for improving the way meetings were handled.

Reports were prepared based on the answers in the sheets. As a result of this procedure, the program was changed around from time to time in order to meet new needs.

Mrs. Roberta Cameron, secretary of East Clifton Forum in Compton County, pointed out that any local group, or District Council, could use this idea to help plan better meetings. As no one signs the sheets, it is easy to get everyone to say his piece without fear of being criticized.

Of the 23 people attending the Workshop, 13 were from several Forums in Pontiac County. While numbers were smaller from other counties — Argenteuil, Brome Sherbrooke, Compton, and Chateauguay — all present felt it was well worthwhile. Suggestions were made that similar, but perhaps shorter meetings could be held, in the Counties. It was felt that local Forum programs could be helped a great deal if local chairmen, council members, and group secretaries could meet two or three times a year in District Workshops. The final conclusion was that a Provincial Workshop still would be necessary so that people across the province could pick up new ideas and approaches for their local Workshops.

The Workshop benefited greatly from the experienced leadership of Floyd F. Griesbach, National Secretary and Bob McDonell, Quebec Farm Forum Secretary.



Mrs. Iva Brownlee, secretary, Pontiac District Farm Forum Council, Walter S. Hodgman, President, Quebec Farm Forum Association, Mrs. Gladys Sly, second vice-president, Quebec Farm Forum Association and Bob McDonell, Quebec Secretary.

Big Business is Getting Bigger

Big Business is getting bigger in the United States and in Canada the same trend is apparent but the figures are not as readily available.

Big corporations in the first quarter of 1954 in the United States were doing 44% more business than they did in the base years 1947-49. Small companies were doing 4% less.

On production, firms employing 2500 workers or more increased their output by 84%. Those with less than 250 employees gained only 28%. As a result the small business share of the total production pie dropped from 40% in 1947 to 35% in 1954.

The profits picture was even more obvious and forecasts a further decline for the small firms as they will have less money to plow back into their business. Profits of the big companies rose 34% from the 1947-49 level. Earnings of the small companies dropped 40% between 1947-49 and 1954.

It doesn't take a crystal ball to find the causes of the decline. Small firms have not been able to get funds for expansion as readily as the 'Bigs'. Nor have they been able to afford costly new-product research to cash in on new wants.

In their drive to diversify their lines so as to have greater stability in times of economic storm, they have entered many of the fields formerly left to the small fellow. Cigarette sales in chain stores is a case in point.

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"Most of the damage in our floods occurs upstream—so you see forest growth at the headwaters is pretty important."

You Too Can Be Creative

Writers these days assume that every man has too much leisure time. To fill this gap, they write articles to help him fill his idle hours with "creative home projects".

MOST of the year, I am able to effectively resist the 'how-to-do-it' sections of magazines and newspapers. But come Christmas my resistance is low and, in a burst of enthusiasm, I embark on several of those 'easy' creative projects that are so cleverly written up. Directions are so clearly outlined that 'even you can do it' which is saying plenty when I'm the reader.

I was brought up in a family where everyone was at least expected to wrap his own Christmas gifts. The girls in the family always seemed to be able to make some of their gifts as well. Not me; I even tried to cheat on the wrapping and got my sisters (and of later years my wife) to do the job.

One of my earliest experiences with the 'do it yourself school' was how to do up a three-tone Christmas box. With sheets of green, red, and white paper in all kinds of weird and fancy folds, the results will be amazing — or so it said. Each step was so clearly outlined. It seemed impossible to go wrong.

I still feel that some editor, perhaps making room for that costly coloured advertisement about tools for the handy-man, must have dropped the most important part of the directions on the floor by mistake. Perhaps such an accusation is unfair but for some reason my box turned out slightly different from the picture in the magazine. The green paper got under the white somehow and didn't show on the edge at all. The red showed alright but at the wrong places and looking a little creased and worse for wear.

There was supposed to be a final touch to this masterpiece — one of those big fancy bows. Directions are so simple to follow: just take end No. 1 in your left hand and make a loop by bringing end No. 2 across it leaving an even loop at both ends. Repeat by bringing end No. 2 back across the middle and But why go on? You can see that it is simple enough. When you are finished with the looping you pull the two free ends together and there you have it! All I got was a pile of creased ribbon on the floor.

The other day while driving home through a snow-storm with my family, the subject of conversation switched naturally to Christmas presents. My wife, being the helpful kind, suggested that I might like a new saw and some handy-man equipment such as sand paper, glue,



woodclamps and the like. She thinks it might be nice if I could refinish some of the second-hand furniture we bought a few months back and finish the kitchen sink-counter project I started about the same time. It is a nice thought, actually, for to do good work a man must have the proper tools — even if his best excuse for leaving things undone is lost thereby.

Every year at our house we at least try to be creative about our Christmas cards. I must confess I am envious of those clever people who work such wonders with a paint brush, a pair of scissors and a tube of glue. Our Christmas mail always has quite a number of these gay enterprises of the 'home handicrafter'.

I have yet to figure out what combination of pen, paper and ink you must have to do a nice job. Last year I bought a little kit of speed-ball pens — fancy, broad and fine nibbed efforts that are designed to make such jobs fun. And what fun! The kit came complete with a half dozen coloured inks — gold, silver, green, white, black, blue — and a supply of coarse, multi-coloured, fibrous paper. All that was needed, so the advertisement said, "to give your Christmas card that distinctive touch that expresses you and you alone". How true! They were distinctive right enough. My wife is a tolerant type with sense enough to be one step ahead of me. At the right stage she handed me a pen, a pile of clever store-bought Christmas cards, and a list: "Here dear, you do your special friends, while I do the rest".

Farm magazines, fortunately, still have a practical slant to their 'how-to-do-it' articles that are directed to the men in the family. But wait until these writers think that farm mechanization leaves you with too much time on your hands. Watch out then for that's when it becomes dangerous.

Even if I am not presently in a position to build a hog self-feeder or install a septic tank on the farm, I find it much safer to stick to reading my farm journals and keep my roving eye out of the modern 'family' magazines.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

How The Gold Medallist Does It



Mr. Abel Verreault, who won the coveted Gold Medal of the Order of Agricultural Merit for 1954, is a man who richly deserves the honours that have come his way, for his farm is one that was built up from practically nothing by his father and himself in the years between 1888 and the present.

Mr. Verreault is now 74 years old, and for 67 years, first working with his father and his nine brothers and sisters, then later on his own, helped by his wife and their 12 children, he brought his farm from six cleared acres to its present size.

He now works two neighbouring 100 acre lots. His father settled on the first 100 acres in 1888, when most of it was completely unimproved. It took 25 years to clear half of it, but by 1932 the whole area was under cultivation. It is a measure of the type of man Mr. Verreault is that he then undertook to acquire another 100 acres and start the clearing process all over again.

He now cultivates 180 acres on a farm which was pretty rough to begin with, but on which he has worked assiduously with a tractor and blade until some 50 acres are in now much better shape. Rounded lands and adequate ditches have solved the drainage problems, and where all else failed, tile drains, nearly three miles of them, have been installed. Fertilizing and manuring play an important part in his farm routines, and he wages a constant battle against weeds, as any good farmer should. In all his operations he leans heavily on the advice and guidance of his agronome, especially since, by following expert counsel, he placed second in a regional better farming contest. He puts up grass silage and is a strong advocate of pasture fertilization.

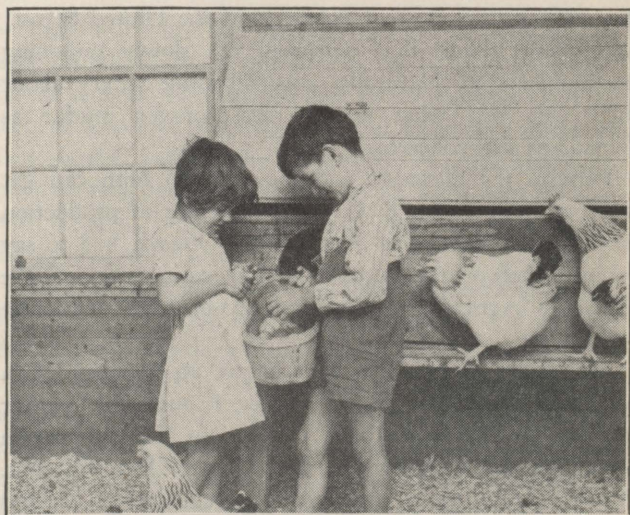
One of his main sources of income is from his annual crop of Green Mountain potatoes, grown under government inspection for seed. He watches the crop like a hawk all summer, spraying and roguing constantly to assure the best possible result. His own seed he produces from tuber units from selected hills.

Livestock comprises dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, hens and geese. His herd of 40 Ayrshires contains a few registered

animals, and he is gradually transforming it into a pure-bred herd. Postal R.O.P. records show that the herd averages 6,000 pounds of milk. He raises about 80 hogs a year and he keeps 150 hens and 100 turkeys along with a few geese. His potato crop runs to about 2,500 bushels a year, which he either sells direct, or through the syndicate. He sells market lambs locally, and the wool from the sheep flock is carded and spun for household use.

He is a believer in mechanized farming, although he still has to do a lot of hand work. He is an expert carpenter and blacksmith and he puts these talents to good use in keeping his equipment in good repair. One interesting machine is his hay-baler, designed and built by himself. His farm buildings, and the farm home, are models of solid construction.

It is very difficult, in a bald recital of facts and figures about Mr. Verreault's farming enterprise, to paint a picture of the many years of hard, unrelenting and unceasing work that has been his lot all his life, for there can be no doubt but that this result was accomplished only through unrelenting toil. Family troubles have come his way too. His wife, who was his constant support through the hard years, was killed in an accident in 1942. His oldest son, who was married and living on the home farm, died not quite a year ago. But his daughter-in-law has remained with him and looks after the domestic side for him. He has ten other children

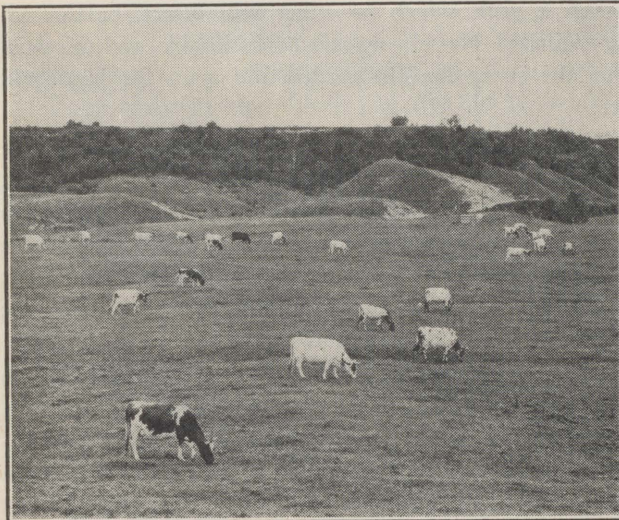


Everybody works on the Verreault farm, even the grandchildren.

living, all married and farming not far away from the old home

But with all this work, Mr. Verreault has found time to take his share in community activities. He belongs to all the local societies, agricultural clubs, etc., and takes an active part in their affairs. He has been a municipal councillor for 12 years and served on the school commission for 16 years. He is a member of the U.C.C. and a charter member and one of the organizers of the Shipshaw Potato Producers' Syndicate.

The Gold Medal of the Order symbolizes successful farming; in Mr. Verreault's case, it is an evidence of success against unusual odds, and he is to be most sincerely congratulated on his achievements.



The Ayrshire herd is gradually being transformed to purebreds.

Are Pesticides Safe?

Since the introduction of DDT in 1945, hundreds of pesticides have been introduced for a wide variety of end uses. After their benefits have been amply demonstrated, some people in Canada (and the United States) have made claims that pesticides are slowly poisoning the human race. Naturally, others became jittery about their use. Just what is the right answer insofar as Canadians are concerned?

Perhaps the alarmists and the alarmed both can get comfort out of what S. C. Barry, director of production services, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, had to say recently before the second annual conference of the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association at Montebello, Que.

Mr. Barry pointed out that before an industrial firm can place a pesticide on the market, it must first register it with the plant products division of the production service as called for by the Pest Control Products Act. Before a product is endorsed for registration, various scientific sections of the Department of Agriculture or the government are consulted. The Science Services test

the materials to see if they live up to manufacturers' claims; guidance of animal pathologists is sought with respect to pesticides intended for animal purposes; discussions are held with the Department of Health and Welfare and the National Pesticide Committee regarding safety from the human health factor.

Assessing the human and animal health hazard, according to Mr. Barry, is more difficult than determining effectiveness. Animals or humans that take in DDT, apparently store some of the material in the original or less toxic form in their tissues. But it has been well established that even *abnormal exposure to DDT results in tissue deposits which are only a very small fraction of the amounts necessary to produce any ill effects on health.*

A fair appraisal of the situation, he said, is that all pesticides registered in Canada are effective for the purpose claimed and present no hazard to health if used as directed. With the combination of the serious desire of the agricultural chemicals industry to fully test and stand behind its products and the safeguards provided under the Pest Control Products Act, the Canadian public has quite adequate assurance that pesticides are effective and safe for the purpose for which they are intended.

National Salon in February

The directors of the National Salon of Agriculture are preparing a particularly interesting program for next February, when many new and interesting surprises will be in store for the people of Montreal.

The third Salon will be held in Montreal from February 17 to 24 at the Show Mart and will offer several new and interesting improvements over the two previous shows. These improvements are the result of visits which were made this past season by the manager of the Salon, Mr. Gabriel Renaud, to such famous exhibitions as those at Paris and Nice, in France, and Verona in Italy.

A new distribution of exhibits at the Show Mart will permit the grouping of exhibitors by types. In the center of the big hall, around a fine floral display arranged by the Montreal Parks Department, will be the four principal exhibits put on by the Canada Department of Agriculture, the Departments of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, while close by will be the seed show of the Ottawa Valley Seed Grower's Association. Several other Ontario exhibitors will be on hand to give the Salon a truly national character.

Heavy machinery will occupy the center of the Hall, and other industrial and educational exhibits, such as dairying, poultry, horticulture and handicrafts, will be distributed around the four sides of the rows of machinery. Thus all the exhibits will be more easily inspected and traffic will be greatly improved.

The exhibits of the Departments of Colonization and Industry and Commerce will have a new theme this year, stressing the furnishings of the farm home.

Quebec Juniors Win At Toronto

Lachute Team Takes Dairy Championship

JOHAN C. OSWALD and Kenneth McOuat are the new dairy cattle judging champions of Canada, following their win in the National 4-H contests held at the Royal Winter Fair last month. Nosed out for a chance to represent Quebec at Toronto last year, they made a strong come-back at Sherbrooke this fall to win the provincial title, to which they have now added the Dominion laurels.

At the National contests, which featured eight different projects, teams from Saskatchewan clubs took three championships; in beef cattle, poultry and grain judging. Alberta girls took the food contest, two Nova Scotia boys placed first in the gardening project, and a boy and girl team from British Columbia took the swine judging contest. The clothing project was won by two young ladies from Manitoba.

This National 4-H work is an important part of the Winter Fair programme. This year 116 boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 21 converged on Toronto from every province, selected for the honour of representing their native provinces because of their proficiency in Club work. They spent a week in the big city, taking part in the contests and being royally entertained by the Fair executive and by various industrial concerns. They toured the University of Toronto where they were welcomed by President Sydney Smith, were guests of the Fair at the Horse Show, saw a hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens, visited points of interest in Ottawa on the way home and attended a number of luncheons, dinners and banquets.

National 4-H week is made possible by donations made to the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs by its members, which include 32 business organizations, 12 national agricultural associations and the federal and provincial departments of agriculture.

The 4-H Pledge

**My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living.**

The movement to train the head and hands and to influence the heart and health of rural youth in Canada had its beginnings in different parts of the country just before the First Great War. Over the years it has had many names and many types of programs but its basic objectives remain the same. Quite simply 4H Club Work is designed to influence farm people to adopt better methods of farming and homemaking, to help them to solve their own problems by training the young people to organize and to accept the responsibilities of citizenship. With membership now approaching the 70,000 mark it's impossible to measure in known terms the



Dominion champions — Kenneth McOuat and John Oswald.

influence of 4H Club Work in rural areas or on the national economy of Canada. Improved dairy and beef herds, new seeds and new strains for grain, fruits, and vegetables, new techniques of food preparation and preservation are but a few instances of the practical results of 4H Club Work. The new spirit of enthusiasm sweeping the rural youth of the country is in no small way attributable to 4H.

Any rural boy or girl up to the age of 21 who is able to carry out a demonstration of some better farm or home activity may become a member of a 4H Club. Generally speaking there is no membership fee as such. Regular meetings are held and conducted according to parliamentary procedure so that the young people learn how to organize and run a public or group meeting by actually doing it themselves. The club also plans group activities such as tours of prominent farms and industries, athletics, judging competitions and achievement day at the local fall fair. Individually, the boy or girl undertakes projects such as the raising of a calf, a pair of pigs or a flock of chickens, the growing of an acre or more of grain or potatoes and the girls may make or select suitable clothing for themselves or their family. In each case they learn by doing — they learn how to raise better livestock more efficiently, to increase the yield per acre, to sew or to cook.

It may be said, then, that the great membership in 4H Clubs and their wide recognition by young and old indicate the way in which Canadian rural youth is planning its future. The 4H Clubs train young men and women for leadership; they improve farms and therefore the community as a whole by introducing better agricultural and homemaking practices; they encourage co-operative community effort for the common good and by helping to build a finer rural life they contribute substantially to the development of a more satisfying Canadian culture.

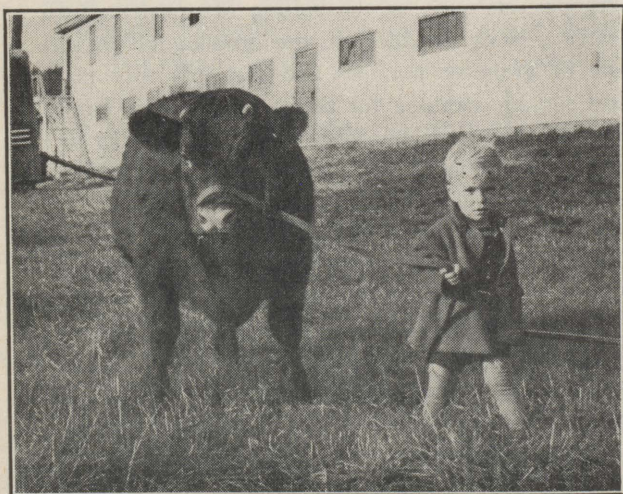
Membership in 4H clubs in Canada has doubled in the past 10 years and reached a new high in 1954 with 68,713 members enrolled in 4,788 clubs; this is an increase of 3,498 members over 1953.

Clothing clubs, with 13,811 members, are the most popular. Dairy calf clubs come next with 11,549, followed by garden clubs with 10,679. It is interesting to note the increasing membership of young women; of the 1954 membership, 33,459 are girls and 35,354 are boys. The average membership per club is 14.4 and the average age of club members is 13.5.

Enrollment in Canada, and in Quebec, according to the type of club, is shown below.

	Canada		Quebec	
	Clubs	Members	Clubs	Members
Clothing	1198	13811	10	150
Food	201	2079	10	160
Garden	878	10679	33	1081
Home Decorating	14	263	9	200
Handicrafts	14	203	—	—
Dairy calf	576	11549	220	5334
Beef calf	559	9654	6	148
Mixed calf	105	1763	—	—
Swine	99	1446	6	136
Poultry	114	1690	8	222
Sheep	18	137	3	17
Grain	558	9081	6	187
Corn	14	260	—	—
Potatoes	130	2141	22	443
Tractor	83	1310	1	20
Farm Forestry	39	803	—	—
Others	188	1844	9	171
	4788	68713	343	8269

Figures for the Quebec enrollment include membership in the Jeunesse Agricole Clubs. Also, there are a large number of Forestry Clubs in Quebec which are not affiliated with the Canadian Council on 4H Clubs, but which have a large and enthusiastic membership.



4-H club members aren't quite as young as this.

Five-Year Plan Works

Léon Beaudin, the Huntingdon agronome, is being credited with a success in his five-year plan for pasture improvement in his district, by the smaller farmers among those under his supervision. In the words of one satisfied farmer, "If the rest of my farm gave me the same returns as my pasture, I would be able to retire in three years." He was referring to his planned pasture of four and a half acres on which he grazed 13 Holstein cows and one calf.

His pasture was seeded early in 1953 and it was fertilized with 400 pounds of 2-16-16 per acre. He was able to turn his dairy herd onto it at the end of May of the same year, using a "cafeteria" system of feeding. This involves continuous feeding on the pasture for three hours each day — one hour in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The field is divided into two plots and pastured alternately every five or six days to allow for resting and regrowth. The grass diet was supplemented by two pounds of dry hay and one pound of ground oats a day.

He claims that his cows have had no other pasture since last year, and that compared to 1952 his milk yield has doubled with an increase of only two cows.

The Beaudin plan encourages farmers to establish their pastures near the farm buildings to avoid milk losses through excessive walking, and to reduce the man-hours required to drive the cattle to and from their milking stations. Fields are seeded with a good mixture of grasses such as red clover, ladino, alfalfa, alsike and birdsfoot trefoil. Fertilizer is applied according to recommendations made following soil tests.

After two years, the plan has proved to be a success from the standpoint of the farmers, the cows, and Mr. Beaudin.

Popularizing The Broiler

More than 150 people attended the first annual meeting of the Broiler Breeders' Association held at St. Hyacinthe last month, presided over by the president, Arthur Blaquière of St. Jean Baptiste de Rouville.

The new organization now has 56 members, and an active campaign will be launched to increase the membership so that the association will be able to really accomplish something in the years ahead. During its first year, which was, of course, the organizing year, the Association was legally incorporated, set up its office staff, and devoted much time to recruiting members and publicizing its objectives among poultry farmers to whom the Association can be of help.

Plans for the immediate future include participation in the Salon National de l'Agriculture in February, the establishing of contacts with hatcheries in various parts of the province, and a publicity campaign to acquaint consumers with the quality of Quebec-grown broilers.

Another Good Year At Granby

The Granby Agricultural Co-operative has come a long way since its first annual meeting fifteen years ago, when its 91 members reported a total business of \$25,000. The sixteenth annual meeting, held on November 23, was told by President Omer Deslauriers that membership now stands at 1214 with another 1150 in affiliated co-operatives bringing the total membership to 2364. The total business turn-over during 1953-54 amounted to just short of \$6,000,000. and net profits available for distribution as patronage dividends were over \$51,000.

There seem to be two good reasons for this phenomenal growth — reasons why, year after year ever since the beginning, an increase in business has been reported. For one thing, the directors and officers are able men, and men who have vision. They realize that no business, be it co-operative or corporation, can stand still. Once a business starts to rest on its laurels, to carry on "operations as usual", the only way it is likely to go is backward. Progress can only be made by the continual expansion of well-thought-out ideas. And these ideas the directors and officers have in good measure.

The second reason, to our mind, is the active campaign of education that forms an important part of the programme. One hundred and thirty-five "animateurs" (we still haven't found an English word that is as expressive as the French one) are, under the direction of Secretary R. P. Sabourin, constantly holding meetings with the other members and their friends who are not members, preaching the co-operative doctrine and drumming up new membership.

Financially, the co-operative had another good year, though a general tightness is beginning to make itself felt that has made business more difficult to transact. Nevertheless, it was possible to transfer \$150,000 to depreciation reserves, credit \$103,000 to members' accounts, pay interest charges of \$50,000, set up reserves for taxes of \$7,000 and still have \$51,000 for patronage dividends. Lower prices for agricultural products are reflected by the fact that the percent increase in total transactions is considerably lower than the percentage increase in volume of goods handled.

Dairy Division Leads

The greatest volume of business was done in dairy products, and total milk receipts were increased by the shipments from the newly-affiliated co-operatives which now ship their milk to the new plant at Notre Dame du Bon Conseil which commenced operations in August. The total of 140,863,811 pounds of milk handled during the year was some 8,000,000 pounds more than last year, and 1,000,000 more pounds of cream were received. The co-operative has ample supplies of summer milk to keep its processing plants busy, but the winter supply is still a matter for concern. Efforts are to be made to get more winter milk from the 2,087 farmers who ship to

the co-operative. The export market is still the best and most profitable outlet; domestic sales continue to be disappointing.

Grain and Feed

This department didn't do as well this year; 168,000 bags of feed as against 171,000 last year, with a reduction in total business of \$42,000. Dairy feed volume dropped by 7,000 bags, but this was off-set by an increase of almost exactly the same amount in poultry feeds. Whole grain sales were down by 8,000 bags.

Sales of seed, however, are encouraging and are increasing every year; proof that the members realize that co-operative seed is good seed, and better than they could expect to find elsewhere at comparable prices. A total of 233,000 pounds went to members last year.

Machinery and Equipment

This department is being re-organized under the direction of Mr. P. E. Roy, a graduate Agricultural Engineer with wide experience; a better record for this department is expected next year. Last year was a slight improvement over the previous year, but its volume of business of \$91,000 is still very small for such a potentially important department. It is expected that facilities for service and repair of all kinds of equipment will be available before too long.

Hatchery

This department is a disappointment, and sales dropped last year by almost \$10,000. Members still seem to prefer Ontario-hatched chicks, but steps are to be taken to increase confidence in this section of the Co-operative's business.

Artificial Insemination

Here is another department which is going backward, with only 1804 cows inseminated during the year. Since this service was organized in 1949, the technicians have inseminated 9,705 cows, at a total cost of \$11,114. It is apparently a question whether or not this service should be continued.

New Manufacturing Processes

The installation of equipment for the continuous manufacture of butter, referred to in last year's report, was completed during the year and is now operating satisfactorily after a rather disappointing start. It appears that the difference in the composition of butter fat as produced in Quebec and that produced in the Western States, for which this machinery was designed, made it difficult to process the local product. However, the difficulties have been ironed out and a very satisfactory butter is now being produced.

The new plant at Notre Dame du Bon Conseil is equipped with machinery of Swiss manufacture which turns out a powdered milk that dissolves instantly and completely in contact with water, to give a product that it is expected will become very popular with consumers

on account of this property. This installation is another example of the fore-sightedness of the board of management in taking pains to learn of new developments in processing, and in providing the equipment that will make the most of new trends in the trade.

Manager J. M. Bonin concluded his report by urging the members to continue the drive for a larger membership, for the plant can handle more volume than it is now receiving and could, without further expansion, take care of the offerings of several hundred more shippers. Other goals to be aimed at are expanded markets, both at home and abroad, improved methods of manufacture and the introduction of new products.

The meeting agreed, on the suggestion of the board of directors, to apply to the Quebec Legislature for authority to increase the ceiling on its borrowing powers to \$2,500,000, two and a half times the present limit, to permit refinancing, at a lower rate of interest, of outstanding obligations. It was also agreed that both the Federal and the Provincial governments should be asked to make grants to farmers for the purchase of seed grain for next spring's seeding, in view of the near failure of grain crops in the district served by the co-operative.

All officers were re-elected for a further term, and there were few changes in the list of directors, which now number fifteen. Every parish with a membership in the co-operative of 32 may elect one director; larger

parishes elect one director for every 50 additional members.

The big problem facing market gardeners in Quebec is not one of production, but rather of distribution and sales Minister of Agriculture Barré told members of the Quebec Market Gardeners' Federation at their annual meeting recently. And these problems cannot be solved by government intervention; they must be solved by the growers themselves through their own organizations, though the government is willing to help, as it has shown by its grants for the building of cold storage plants.

From now on, all Special and Grade A turkeys produced in Quebec and officially graded into these categories will carry metal tags stamped QUEBEC, "Choice Quality", "Produit de Choix". The idea came from the Quebec Turkey Breeders' Association, and the Department of Agriculture is standing the cost of having the tags made and distributed to the processing plants, where they will be affixed to the carcasses under the supervision of the federal graders.

The Minister, the Deputy Minister, and all members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture extend best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Place Your Order Now . . .

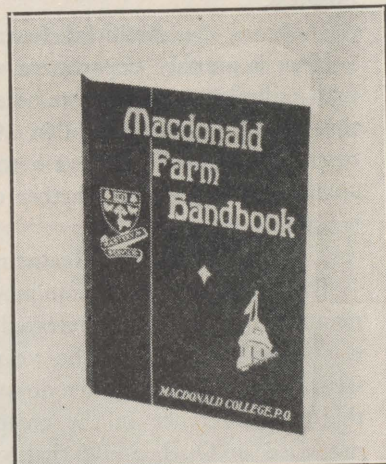
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THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

Greetings from Our President

Dear Fellow Members:-

I extend most sincere Christmas Greetings to each and every one of you, and to your family. This is the festive season, linked by tradition with happiness, good fellowship and the family hearth. It is a time of good cheer, and of hope that the near future may see the world a step nearer to the reign of peace on earth.

As we enter the New Year together, may we recall the urgency of guarding the traditions and ideals which are precious to us. May we renew our faith and resolution, and with fresh courage step forward into 1955, confident that the golden age is before us, not behind us.

—GRACE LEBARON.

At Christmas

by Nellie A. Parsons

As the Christmas season draws ever nearer, it brings nostalgic memories of other Christmases and joyful anticipation of the one so near at hand. For Christmas is a joyful time, and not as the cynics say "just a time for children" but a time for everyone. It is a time of wonder, and hope, and thankfulness, and love; a time of homecoming and happy family re-unions, of music and gifts and feasting; and, permeating the whole atmosphere is that wonderful, indefinable feeling of friendliness and goodwill that we call the Christmas spirit. It is a time, too, of deep religious significance, when children are told the beautiful story of the Child and His mother in the stable, the Star in the East, the gifts of the wise men and the joy of the shepherds who watched their flocks; and now, on Christmas Eve at midnight and again on Christmas Day, we attend divine services in churches made festive with their symbolic decorations of evergreen, wreaths, and candle light. There are so many pleasant things associated with this season, the Christmas concert where the children take a prominent part, the decorations in churches, homes, stores and streets, the Christmas cards with their friendly greetings, the occasional long distance phone calls from those whom distance prevents their getting home, the radio programs bringing us the old familiar and well loved Christmas carols, the ritual of hanging stockings, the visit of Santa Claus, the gifts, the Christmas dinner and family reunions, and another Christmas is added to the collection of Christmas memories.

I am somewhat intolerant of the saying that has been so widely circulated in recent years that it has almost attained the status of a slogan, in which we are admonished to "put Christ back into Christmas". With

all reverence, I would ask, just when was Christ left out of Christmas? As far back as I can remember (and I have seen the calendar date change many times) He has always held a strong and assured place in our celebrations of His birthday, a place which grows even stronger as the years go by, and now horizons are extended so that we not only share with the poor and lonely in our midst, but as individuals and organizations send our gifts of friendship and cheer to those less fortunate in far distant lands.

For those to whom Christmas is but an excuse for wild parties and drunken spree, this admonition may be applicable, but for the great majority of Christmas families, Christ is still, and always has been, the central theme of Christmas. In the time of the Puritans, when severity was the rule, all merry making and feasting at Christmas was forbidden, plum pudding was denounced as "mere popery" and roast beef as "anti-christian", but the people were not happy, and when the ban was eventually lifted Christmas was brought back triumphantly and celebrated with more merriment than ever, and this is as it should be for when the first news of the Holy birth was announced by the Angel of the Lord it was in these words, "Behold! I bring you glad tidings of great joy".

Canada has developed through the years a Christmas pattern of her own, based upon the various traditions of older countries, yet adapted to her own particular needs. Some of these customs are borrowed from the past, our carols come from Palestine, the tree from Germany, the stocking from France, cards and plum pudding from England and turkey is the American contribution. But we have some that are distinctly Canadian, as our roast

goose and apple sauce, and growing more popular from year to year is the use of tomato juice and tomato jelly. Two of the most widespread characteristics of our Christmas would probably be the tree and the visit of Santa Claus, but both borrowed.

Canadians, who are of so many racial origins, like to retain those customs which are dear to them and are gradually absorbing many of our customs so that a Canadian Christmas is becoming a combination of the best borrowed from them all and is, consequently, an enriched Christmas, with friendship and goodwill paramount. And now, from our house to your house, a kindly sincere wish to you for a deeply satisfying, a very Merry Christmas.

Here and There

Another opportunity to use radio has been arranged. Thanks to the initiative of the convenor of Publicity for Stanstead County a 15-minute period every month has been granted over station WIKE, Newport, Vt., for the use of the W.I. in the county. Stanstead's share in the 4-county project, monthly broadcasts over CKTS, Sherbrooke, successfully carried on for several years, will be continued. Bonaventure is another county that makes use of radio, with a regular monthly broadcast. We hope more districts may be able to get similar channels for their publicity.

Members will have been pleased to see the fine account of "Rural Women's Day" in the last issue of *La Terre du Foyer*, with pictures of guests at the head table, our own Mrs. LeBaron and Mrs. Harvey among them. No doubt the picture of the weaving class at the May short course was also noted in the previous number of this magazine, with its friendly comment about our work.

Contacts with other groups this past month have been the annual meeting of the Quebec Council of Community Programmes at Sweetsburg and the regular monthly meeting of the Montreal Council of Women.

At the former, discussion of the still experimental project, Inter-County Leadership Schools, had a large place on the agenda. A committee was set up to make further study consisting of Rev. A. Cameron, chairman, Mrs. LeBaron and Mr. Hodgman.

At the other meeting, Dr. Oswald Hall, Chairman of the Department of Sociology, McGill University, asked the question, "What is Immigration Doing to Canada?" The answer, he admitted, was hard to define but the general conclusion seemed to be that richer regions of Canada were getting richer (tendency to flock there continues) and poorer regions remain poor, people, native or migrant, don't want to settle there. The immigration policy had been framed in the hope the more sparsely settled regions of Canada could be populated by migration but one Western farmer claimed the one English word learned was "Toronto"!

The work of the Girls' Cottage School was described by the president of the Board, Mrs. R. L. Williams. "Girls often come to us defiant and disturbed" she said, "but a few months usually sees a great transformation". The School has been in operation for 3½ years and can house 40 girls.

Plans for a system of pooling of fares were discussed at the recent Q.W.I. executive meeting. These will be ready for the semi-annual board meeting. The dates for this are Jan. 21-22, at the Y.W.C.A., Montreal. Details will be going shortly to all board members as reservations will have to be made early. Mrs. G. D. Harvey is in charge of arrangements, assisted by Mrs. G. E. Cooke. Please keep these dates in mind and try to attend this important meeting—all board members are asked to be present if at all possible.

The Month With The W.I.

November meetings, which most of these are, bring their thoughts of Remembrance Day; W.I. members do not "forget". Assisting in ceremonies, furnishing wreaths, selling poppies (or giving them to school children to sell), donations to the Poppy Fund, are ever-recurring items.

What is the purpose of the Q.W.I. Service Fund? How did the idea originate? Two questions often asked by the members. To answer them the story was written up and distributed to every branch this fall. Does that partly account for the increased mention of contributions to "our own fund"? Approximately \$100 are reported this month, in addition to the two branches not specifying amounts. Eventually, no doubt, we shall arrive at this pattern of November for this giving.

Argenteuil: Arundel had a hat making demonstration by Mrs. Lamothe. A few chapters of the History for the Tweedsmuir Competition were read and Dr. Henry gave a talk on "Is Peace Possible?" showing films to illustrate his topic. *Brownsburg* entertained the teachers



Branches in Pontiac started organizing very early in the history of the W.I. in this province. Here is a group of some of the first members who were present at the recent county meeting. Left to right: Miss E. M. Edey, Wyman; Mrs. R. N. Hodgins, Shawville; Mrs. Humphrey and Mrs. Jas. McMillan, Bristol. (Mrs. Humphrey is a cousin of the late Miss S. Armstrong, the first provincial president.) Unfortunately, Miss Pritchard who took the picture, couldn't be in it too.

and members of the School Board, also Frontier W.I. Cookies were sent to the Ste. Annes Military Hospital and books were presented to the School Library. *Jerusalem-Bethany* had a talk on "How Common is Sense" by Mrs. G. McGibbon. Help is being given the local group forming to help retarded children. Rev. W. Bridge gave a talk on the life of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, "Musician, Theologian, Philosopher and Missionary". Donations include \$5 for prizes in the school, \$5 Salvation Army and \$5 Educational Fund (county). *Frontier* had a discussion on the proposed school for retarded children. A quiz on the "Where, Why and How of the Q.W.I." was featured and contests with prizes: Know Your Calories and Scrambled Letters. *Lakefield* had the county president, Mrs. Crosby, as guest speaker with her topic, "W.I. Work". Help is to be given a needy family during the winter and a gift was sent a bride. *Mille Isles* heard a report of the county meeting. A subscription was voted the County Educational Fund. *Morin Heights* observed Educational night with the Home and School Association as a guest. The teachers were welcomed by Mrs. W. Seale, who gave a talk on "Education". Miss Shirley Dey won the scholarship. W.I. representatives attend meetings of the School Board and local Council. Ayer's Woollen Mills and Recreation Centre at Lachute have been visited. *Pioneer* heard a talk by Mrs. Laliberte of the Lachute Chamber of Commerce, describing its objectives, followed by a questionnaire. This branch is joining with two others to entertain Brownsburg. *Upper Lachute-East End* had Mrs. George McGibbon as guest speaker, her talk, "The Privileges and Duties of a Citizen". Mrs. Allan Boa gave a report of the fair and \$50 was voted to aid the work with retarded children. This is one of the branches assisting with the entertainment of Brownsburg.

Bonaventure: *Black Cape* made arrangements for the annual hospital canvas. Several articles were read. *Marcel*

displayed gloves made during the course given by Miss Hasel. A talk on "Scholastic Attitudes and Aptitudes" was given by Mrs. Jos. Hayes and a new member was enrolled. *New Richmond* had Mr. Cattermull as guest speaker on the subject, "Language". Plans were made for book prizes at the local school and for the hospital canvas. The lunch room at the local fair realized \$40. A life membership was presented to a faithful member, Mrs. H. Dimock. *Port Daniel* heard a report on the glove and slipper course and welcomed a new member. *Restigouche* made plans for a social evening.

Brome: *Abercorn's* turkey supper and sale proved very successful. At the meeting favorite desserts were named and recipes given for the same. The report of the school fair was heard. *Austin* made arrangements for the county semi-annual. *South Bolton* forwarded recipes to the county president for the cookbook. Many articles were brought in for the "Old and New" sale. *Sutton* held a card party. Three bundles of cotton were sent to Sweetsburg Hospital for cancer patients.

Compton: *Brookbury* entertained East Clifton and Sawyerville Institutes and the county president, Mrs. V. Hurley. A talk on "Children's Health", was given by Mrs. Watson R.N. A gift was presented to a charter member, now 92 years of age, and \$10 donated the Salvation Army. *Bury* JWI accepted with regret the resignation of the counsellor, Mrs. K. Tarrant. Used stamps are being saved and a weiner roast is planned. *Bury* held its 34th annual School Fair. A memorial plaque has been placed in the Rock Garden. Members from Sherbrooke County were entertained, Mrs. W. T. Pearson, county secretary, bringing a report of Rural Women's Day at the Quebec Fair, prepared by the president, Mrs. B. Turner, who had attended that event. *Canterbury* heard papers on Publicity by Mrs. J. Sharman, Education by Mrs. N. G. Bennett, and the Founding of Macdonald College by Mrs. M. Goodwin. This branch observed its 40th anniversary by holding a salad tea which netted \$23.30. Squares are being knitted for Greece. *Cookshire* entertained the teachers, also the new supervisor, Mr. J. N. Wood and Mrs. Wood. *East Angus* held a paper drive and is knitting squares for Greece. *East Clifton* held a successful School Fair. The Sawyerville High School staff was entertained and papers on "Rural Education" and "The Pros and Cons of the Consolidated School" were given. The county president and secretary were also guests and each was presented with a gift. Prizes were given in the junior grades at school. *Sawyerville* entertained the teaching staff and members are knitting squares for Greece. *Scotstown* also entertained the teachers. Two recent books were reviewed and films portraying scenes of other countries were shown. A member, Mrs. Roy Desruisseau, won a prize of \$500 in the recent I.G.A. contest. A "Know Your Kitchen" contest was held and \$20 was given the Library and \$5



Here we see a pleasing event at the annual picnic of the Gaspé County W.I. at Fort Haldimand. The immediate past president, Mrs. Allan Eden, receives a Q.W.I. life membership, the current president, Mrs. H. Palmer, performing the ceremony. Members from all five branches are in the group looking on.

for school prizes. *South Newport* heard a talk on "How to Prepare a Child for School". Old cottons were sent the Cancer Society.

Chat-Huntingdon: *Aubrey-Riverfield* discussed the distribution of school prizes for another year. Mrs. J. Grier gave a talk on her trip to the West and Mrs. C. Orr a paper on the W.I. and the Service Fund. Members have canned 50 tins of applesauce for the Ormstown Barrie Memorial Hospital and 183 tins for Howick High School Cafeteria. Mrs. H. Robertson gave a demonstration on icing a bride's cake and quilt blocks were brought in for a quilting party later. *Dundee* had the county president, Mrs. W. E. Bernhardt, as guest speaker with a talk on "Education for the Average Housewife". Mrs. Bernhardt also gave a demonstration on making jewellery. Articles read included; The Home Freezer, Toronto Flood, W.I. Handicraft Van of P.E.I., and mention of the Q.W.I. Brief to the Heon Commission. *Franklin Centre* reports \$50 made at their booth at the Havelock Fair, and twice as many exhibits at the School Fair as the previous year. Mrs. Bernhardt visited this branch also, giving a talk and demonstration on jewellery-making. A film, "Canada at the Coronation" was shown. *Howick* entertained the school staff. Mr. N. Holland showed pictures, "A Southern Skyline" and "A Trip to South America", and Mrs. B. Chisholm gave a talk on the Declaration of Human Rights. An icing demonstration was given by Mrs. J. Peddie and the heating of parowax was discussed. The School Fair was given \$20 in prizes, Ormstown High School \$5, Howick High School \$5 to purchase magazines, canned fruits and jellies to the same school, and a collection was taken for Shriners' Hospital. *Hemmingford* has organized a Book Club among members and others interested and plans to enter paintings in the Tweedsmuir Competition. *Unicef* greeting cards are ordered. Another visit from Mrs. Bernhardt is reported here, who spoke on the ACWW and gave her popular demonstration. *Huntingdon* also had the film, "Canada at the Coronation". Vegetables, jams and jellies were brought in and donated to the Huntingdon Hospital, also money was donated to buy a portable electric lamp. More cookbooks are to be made up. *Ormstown* canned 87 tins of peaches, as well as other fruits and vegetables, for the High School cafeteria. The teachers of the Protestant and Roman Catholic schools were entertained and Mr. R. G. Smith of the Ormstown staff gave a talk on "Armistice". A talk was also given by Mrs. J. Davidson on her trip to Stratford, Ont. Several readings completed the program.

Gaspé: A large display of lovely handmade articles were on display at the annual W.I. fair. Flowers and fruit added colour to the scene and the cooking display was excellent. Lunch was served by *Haldimand*. *Sandy Beach* heard a paper on "Germs" at a Welfare and Health program under the direction of Miss J. Clements. Wool



Pontiac County Women's Institute holds its fall meeting. The County president, Mrs. Shennett, is in extreme left hand corner, front row.

for squares for Greece was given out and \$5 given to Mr. Raymond.

Gatineau: The county meeting was held at Eardley Town Hall. A feature of the program was a talk by a former past president of the Q.W.I., Mrs. Fred Lusk, a member in this county and 86 years old. She also recited "How to be Happy". Mrs. E. S. Reed, a former provincial convenor of Citizenship, was the guest speaker, her address entitled, "The Importance of Rural or Small Communities in the Life of the Nation". An amusing skit was put on by Lower Eardley W.I. *Aylmer East* had as guest speaker, Miss Betty McMillan who spoke of her trip to Europe. A donation of \$10 was voted the Institute for the Blind. *Breckenridge* catered for the county meeting. Two papers were given, "Our Society is Centred on the Child" by Mrs. Faris, Education, and "How to Care for a Leather Coat", by Mrs. McMillan, Home Economics. The annual School Fair was a success and \$10 was awarded for highest marks in Grade VII. *Lakeview* had as guests Mrs. D. Carson and Mrs. H. J. Barbar of the C.A.C. A committee was formed to explore the possibility of establishing a V.O.N. branch. A variety sale was held and \$10 given the Institute for the Blind. *Lower Eardley* heard a paper by the convenor of Education, Mrs. R. Hurdman, "Movies for the Children", and Mrs. C. R. Pink gave a talk on "Helping Parents of Handicapped Children". A travelling apron brought \$7.05 and money was voted the Institute for the Blind. *Rupert* heard reports of the Calf Club Fair and voted \$29.75 towards this project. A donation of \$10 was voted the Institute for the Blind. *Wakefield* heard a talk given by Miss Graham of the Grenfell Mission. Mrs. Bernard was appointed chairman of a committee to organize a Hospital Auxiliary. A "Twenty-questions" program was arranged by Mrs. Luebie. Donations include \$10 to Toronto Flood Relief, \$10 Institute for the Blind (and \$159 raised in canvas), and \$3 to the Grenfell Mission. Members poured tea at the formal opening of the Brookdale Home. *Wright* entertained members of Kazabazua W.I. at the Queen Elizabeth School when Mr. J. Roy of the Rotary Club, Maniwaki, gave an evening's entertainment with colored slides and commentary on his trip to Europe, Africa and the Coronation.

Jacques-Cartier: Ste. Annes observed UN Day with a panel discussion arranged by the Citizenship convenor, Mrs. W. J. MacKay. Speakers were Mrs. E. Lepine, "Peace Starts in the Home"; Miss Helen Devereux, "Peace and International Trade"; and Mrs. J. Bland, "Peace and Mental Hygiene". Two quilts are being made and toy animals for Christmas cheer for needy children. The sum of \$25 was voted Toronto Flood Relief and \$2 given towards prizes at a card party, given by Harwood W.I.

Missisquoi: Cowansville joined with the local Home and School Association to organize a reception for the new teachers. A talk, "How English Women Spend Their Leisure", was given by Mrs. Priest, a native of that country. A tea and food sale was held. Dunham heard a paper on "Comic Books" and a quiz on "What Do You Know About the Q.W.I.", was featured. Fordyce's convenor of Home Economics read two papers, "The Story of Cotton in Canada" and "More About the Design Contest".

Montcalm: Rawdon writes "We regret very much to announce the death of our secretary, Miss Fanny Munro, on the 17th of October. Miss Munro was decorated with the Royal Red Cross by the late King George V for her war services, and later became Superintendent of Nurses at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. Her life was an outstanding example to all women, and her passing leaves a great gap in our community life". A dinner party was held at Rawdon Inn with 51 guests welcomed by the president, Mrs. Grasswell. Miss Daly gave a talk on the history of the branch and was given a presentation as its founder and faithful worker for 20 years, this ceremony performed by the past president, Mrs. E. Knox Copping. Military Whist closed the evening's program.

Pontiac: Bristol had as guest speaker, Mrs. H. Rice, County Health Nurse. A parcel post sale was held, a quilt is being made and \$10 was voted the Toronto Flood Relief. Clarendon had a reading and Mrs. Dwight McDowell Welfare & Health convenor, gave a paper



Mrs. D. A. Wishart is making a presentation on behalf of the members of the Ste. Annes W.I. to Mrs. D. Sutherland, who is leaving the community.

prepared by Miss Foster, Superintendent of the Pontiac Community Hospital, on Polio. An apron, donated by a member, was passed around and donations to Institute for the Blind put in its pocket. Elmside had as guest speaker, Mr. D. Dickson, editor of the "Equity", who gave a report on the Teachers' Convention, Montreal. A donation was given to Pontiac Community Hospital. Quyon entertained teachers from three schools, one French. Projects under way are a canvas for the Institute for the Blind, a birthday calendar and the Library. Shawville held the annual dinner party, attended by 25 members and a guest, at Bryson and later attended a movie. At Wyman Mrs. D. Dickson gave a talk on "Books for Children", speaking of religious books and ideas for gift books for Christmas.

Richmond: Cleveland's Citizenship convenor, Mrs. W. Gilchrist, read a paper, "Everyday Citizenship". A committee was appointed to look after the welfare of needy children. A Memory Book is being compiled, recording the death of each member and her service to the W.I. Anniversary parties were held for two members on their Silver Wedding and \$10 was voted for Toronto Flood Relief. Gore entertained Spooner Pond W.I. A demonstration on chocolate making and a quiz formed the program. A new member was enrolled. Jams and pickles were donated to the Wales Home and each member brought a gift for a veteran. Melbourne Ridge heard a report of the county meeting by Mrs. Kerr. The county president, Mrs. A. Paige, conducted a quiz, "How Well do You Know Your W.I.?" which was won by Mrs. Driver. A card shower for a member in hospital, a gift to the faithful treasurer, Mrs. Kerr and another moving away are reported. Miss Joan Frank was awarded the Bursary for a Nurse-in-Training. Catering for a wedding netted \$48.70; auction sale, \$1.35; and party, \$35. Linen was sent to the Cancer Clinic and \$3 given Richmond United Church for the use of its Hall.



Ste. Annes Branch holds a farewell party for Mrs. D. Sutherland.

Richmond Hill held a True or False contest with prizes. Spooner Pond entertained Gore and Richmond Hill branches. Bingo was enjoyed, members donating prizes, and a quilt was sold. Mrs. Stimson gave a report of a C.A.C. meeting. At Windsor Mills Miss Verna Hatch, Provincial convenor of Education, gave a talk on "What the School Expects of the Parents". The teachers of the local School were guests. Talent money is the money raising project here and magazines were sent to the Girl Guides.

Rouville: Abbotsford had Miss Page of Verdun High School as guest speaker, who gave an illustrated talk on "Art and Artists". Apples were brought in for the Veterans' Hospital at St. Hyacinthe and 30 jars of jelly for Montreal Diet Dispensary.

Shefford: Granby Hill heard Mr. M. Dunsmore of Granby High School give a talk on "Reading and Spelling". A vaporizer inhalator has been presented to the St. Joseph Hospital, Granby, and a plaque placed in memory of a member, Mrs. F. Neil. Granby West completed a quilt and Mrs. E. Irwin won the prize for the best piece of handwork. A Publicity contest, with prizes, was held. At Warden a film was shown on the United Nations by the Citizenship convenor. Proceeds of the sale of the Tweedsmuir quilt were given Sweetsburg Hospital. A travelling clock was presented to Mrs. E. Ashton, a life member who recently celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary. Canned fruit and vegetables were sold by auction and UNICEF cards were ordered.

Sherbrooke: Ascot heard a paper on "United Nations". Money was voted for school prizes, the Cecil Memorial Home and Red Feather Campaign. A bouquet of hand painted milk weed, the work of a member, made a pretty display. Belvidere featured an apron parade. A rummage sale will be held, a card party and sale of novelties and homemade candy. At Brompton, Mrs. Cullen read an article, "Mental Mechanisms" and Mrs. H. MacLeod another, "Where There's a Will". A magazine subscription was renewed for a veteran and \$5 donated to the V.O.N. Lennoxville celebrated its 40th anniversary with two charter members present, Mrs. E. L. Atto and Mrs. Reed. A talk on W.I. work in UNESCO was given and \$15 voted for school prizes. Milby sang the W.I. Rally Song for the first time as part of the opening ceremony. A baked bean supper netted \$38.50 and the annual masquerade party was held. Money for prizes was voted to two schools and vegetables donated to the Salvation Army.

Stanstead: Ayer's Cliff had the provincial president, Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, as guest speaker on the topic "Citizenship". Prizes were given at the school and a paper drive was held. Beebe won first prize at the County Fair with its exhibit of Handicrafts. A member donated

\$35 from the sale of a quilt and the fall fair and supper was profitable. The teachers were entertained and an address was given by the principal. A Memory Book is being compiled here and the new Q.W.I. plaque was on display. Three new members were enrolled. North Hatley heard a talk, "Ceylon, Past and Present". Articles were sent for W.I. Exhibit at the Fair and boxes of clothing to the county rummage sale. Tomifobia voted to assist with the county broadcasts. A quilt was sent to a family who lost their home by fire. Way's Mills heard a talk, "The Best Part of Health is a Good Disposition", given by Mrs. Gordon Cass, county convenor of Welfare & Health.

Is There a Santa Claus?

This editorial, which has justly become timeless, was written in the New York Sun in 1897 by Francis Pharcellus Church in answer to a letter from a little eight-old girl named Virginia O'Hanlon who had been told by some of her friends that there was no Santa Claus.

Virginia, your friends are wrong.

They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age.

They do not believe except they see.

They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect,

an ant, in his intellect,

as compared with the boundless worlds about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound

and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus!

It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight.

The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus!

You might as well not believe in fairies!

You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys

on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus,

but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn?

Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there.

Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen

world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength

of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart.

Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside

that curtain and view and picture

the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real?

Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus!

Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever.

A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now,

he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Ladies Only

Anytime Is Tea Time

by Alice M. Stickwood

THE Chinese have a saying that only aerated water should be used in tea-making, that is why water which has been boiled a long time will not make good tea, so the first law of tea-making according to the Chinese is freshly boiling water.

The second law of the brewing is to warm the tea-pot with scalding water. The third is a level teaspoon of tea for each teacup and one for the pot. The fourth is to pour the boiling water on the tea leaves and replace the teapot cover, and the fifth is to brew the tea three to five minutes — no more. To paraphrase Kipling:

"Now these are the law of the brewing
And many and mighty are they
But the rim and lid of the law
And the handle and spout is — Obey!
And you'll have a cup that cheers."

Practically all teas will "cream down" or cloud when the infusion is chilled. This does not mean that the tea is inferior. Tea experts prize very highly teas that "cream down" since it is often indicative of quality especially body. The chemical reason for this cloudiness or "creaming down" lies in the precipitation of the caffeine and tannin in the tea in the form of caffeine tannate. This caffeine tannate content is the element which makes tea vitalizing and cooling. It varies in different blends of tea; for instance when tea that has been brewed in boiling water is chilled, the tannin in the caffeine tannate content turns cloudy. This has nothing to do with the taste or refreshing quality of the tea, but does detract from its clear, sparkling appearance. There are ways to avoid this, and one is to select a brand of tea containing the smallest

possible amount of tannin. A number of such blends are on the market, made for exclusive use in making iced tea. The smaller amount of tannin in these iced tea blends reduces imperceptibly the tang which is most appealing to connoisseurs of a cup of tea but assures a clear, sparkling drink.

Another way to avoid cloudiness or "creaming down" without using a special iced tea blend is to use the cold water method endorsed by some experts.

General Suggestions:

China, glass, earthenware or enamel pots are best for making tea, for metal is apt to affect the flavour. Pots equipped with strainers are desirable too and if not available, two pots will be needed so tea may be poured off the leaves as soon as sufficiently steeped. Strainers, tea balls or muslin bags should not be filled more than half full in order to leave room for leaves to swell and to give off their flavour.

Water should be freshly boiled. Pot should be scalded to freshen and to heat it.

Proportions — Proportion of tea to water cannot be stated definitely as it depends largely upon kind of tea and personal taste.

Service — Tea may be served with cream or milk, sugar, thinly sliced lemon or orange, candied cherries, ginger, orange peel, mint leaves or similar accompaniments.



The Fordyce Farm Forum takes time out to relax.



A recent Ste. Annes W.I. party, left to right: Mrs. J. Howe, Ste. Annes, Mrs. G. Henderson, Past-President Harwood W.I., Mrs. J. Houston, Ste. Annes, and Mrs. H. B. Hanna, President of the Harwood W.I.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

The Macdonald Clan

Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students

The Macdonald Farm Handbook

Some time early in January the first copies of the Macdonald Farm Handbook will be going out to farmers all over Eastern Canada. The preparation of our Handbook would make quite a long story in itself. We hope in a small space to give you some idea of what was involved.

Staff members at an agricultural college like Macdonald are busy people with students to teach and research projects to direct. Despite this, over 600 pages of type-written copy were submitted by members of the staff. Many hours of work were spent in necessary staff discussions to decide how much of what material should be included in the final book. Out of these discussions would come suggestions for changes or new material. Back would go the copy for another revision.

While this kind of procedure might sound time-wasting to you, it was felt necessary to assure readers of accurate information in a handy reference form. As the handbook deals with facts of interest to general farmers in an area that includes the Ottawa Valley of Eastern Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, the staff had to be sure that practices advocated took due recognition of the farm problems in the various sections.

It was necessary also to be careful not to use up valuable space with information of use only to farmers specialized in market gardening, commercial fruit-growing, large-scale poultry production and the like. Many parts of the book will, of course, be of use to specialists, but its aim is to meet the needs of the general farmer.

The work of our agricultural scientists is constantly bringing out new materials, new facts and new practices. The Handbook is not intended to replace farm bulletins and the annual recommendations of various agricultural services. Despite this limitation, it is felt that it will be a handy reference for farm facts in a quickly available form and not buried under a mass of detail. Most of the material included has been edited in such a way that it will be of permanent value. In many sections, the changes that will occur from one year to the next will be of small importance.

We came across an item in the Nova Scotia Farm News recently that we would like to quote. "A dummy copy of the new handbook was received the other day from Macdonald College. If one may judge by the table of contents and from extracts of certain sections, it would appear that the Handbook will contain very useful information in a very readable and accessible form. This looks like a reference book that should be in every farm library. It is printed on a very good grade of paper and the type is easy to read. In addition the material used in the book is presented in a manner that is both interesting and descriptive. Anyone reading the book will be able to grasp the significant details without any trouble whatsoever".

Orders for over 1000 copies of the book have already been received by the Adult Education Service at Macdonald College. As we have pointed out in our advertisement the price is \$1.00 to anyone who orders before January 1st.



Stewart Wells and Anne Drobysh, senior students of Macdonald College, who have been awarded scholarships by the I.O.D.E.

Dear Readers . . .

We went to the woods today for the Christmas tree. We chose one about five feet tall, hanging with crystal icicles (the real kind); white-clad parcels of snow nestled among the green branches. The pungent fir odour filled the air as Fred cut it down, and it fell with a heart-rending sigh. Its stump showed ten rings. Do you think this tree grew for ten years just to have us cut it down to use for two weeks? Still, it would be like taking the Merry from Christmas not to have it. Its aroma fills the house and is our Christmas incense.

We checked the woodlot for new growth while we were there. We may order a few new trees for reforestation through our Farm Forum. Now is the time of year to make plans for next spring's early planting of trees, we thought.

I have heard that the first tree planting was called "Reforestation Projects" without impressing the

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public, but when the name was changed to "Tree Farming" everybody became interested.

Our Forum is unwinding some of its tangles by the use of Evaluation. One a month, generally Fourth Night, after lunch, we summarize the month's activities and discussion. The Evaluation is written on a blackboard carried around for this purpose. Each person is asked his opinion. The favourite headings seem to be "Likes" and "Dislikes". Reports are kept of these and are used by the various committees to assist them in their planning of discussions, speakers, menus, programmes and recreation.

Our Community Christmas Tree is to be held this week, and the Institute and the Farm Forum assist the Sunday School officials at this event. We are all well entertained with Farm Forum films, carol singing a programme of recitations and plays by the children, followed by a visit from Santa direct from the North Pole.

He has an extra stocking to fill at our house this year. It isn't very big, so it won't take much to fill it! We are wondering what will impress our

baby most—the gay lights, the gifts, or, as I expect, the crackle of the wrapping paper. Do you suppose he'll listen when Little Sister tells him of the first Christmas and of a Baby born in a manger two thousand years ago, who was a Gift unto all mankind from One who loved them?

Merry Christmas,

Wally.

Please Pass The Cattails

Cattails — the graceful rushlike plants common to most Canadian swamps and sloughs — may soon become a favorite dish on our menus. According to C-I-L Agricultural News, two Syracuse University scientists have been exploring the possibilities of using this wild plant economically. They have already found that cattail roots can be eaten like potatoes. They've made cattail flour from which they've baked cattail cookies. They've used the fibre from the stem for caulking barrels to make them water tight. Other industrial uses for the plant are being investigated.



Season's Greetings

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